Assassination Prober Sprague

Newhouse News Service

WASHINGTON — Richard A. Sprague was sworn in yesterday to head a House investigation of the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Sprague said he expects to question Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and John Connally, who were riding in Kennedy's car when he was shot in 1963, and President Ford, who served on the Warren Commission which investigated the assassination and concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, was the culprit.

"I'm not assuming anything, which means I start from ground zero and look into whatever the evidence may be concerning who was involved in each of the assassinations, who in fact did the killing, if there was anyone else involved and did any individual or agency attempt to thwart ascertaining the answer to those questions up to now," Sprague said.

"From my viewpoint," Sprague said, "no documents are beyond the confines of this investigation, no labels that may be put on any documents are beyond the con-

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'Starts From Ground Zero'

fines of this investigation and nobody's testimony that is living is beyond the reaches of this investigation."

He said he would not hesitate to seek new evidence, if it exists, outside the United States — even in Cuba or the Soviet Union.

The original investigation by the Warren Commission and the FBI's handling of the 1968 King assassination have been called into question in recent years.

There have been revelations that both the CIA and the FBI withheld information from the Warren Commission about Oswald and about U.S. efforts to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, and evidence J. Edgar Hoover waged a long, covert campaign to discredit King, casting doubt on the FBI's investigation of his murder.

Sprague, 52, attracted national attention as the special prosecutor who proved United Mine Workers Union President W.A. "Tony" Boyle ordered the 1969 murders of union insurgent Joseph A. "Jock" Yablonski, his wife and daughter in Clarkesville, Pa.